

October 23, 1975

PROPOSAL

TO: Mr. Vincent J. Heyman
Chief, CIA Operations Center

[Redacted]

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FROM: [Redacted] CIA Operations Center

SUBJECT: A Seminar on "Modern Methods of Intelligence"

BACKGROUND

The current atmosphere of mistrust and apprehension concerning U.S. intelligence activities points to a need for an open exchange of views between the intelligence and the academic communities.

A clear understanding of the nature of intelligence work by outsiders is difficult for a number of reasons. The unavoidable limits imposed on the dissemination of official information on intelligence matters by valid security requirements is one of the problems. Literary and journalistic concentration on agent-related and "exotic" activities is another. Most recently, the focus of Congressional investigations on covert activities has served to obscure the intelligence functions of the Agency.

If the U.S. intelligence community, and the Central Intelligence Agency in particular, is to continue to function effectively it must not only improve the public image of its work. It must also clarify public understanding of the process of intelligence production and the importance of intelligence as a tool for future foreign policy practitioners.

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That the CIA Operations Center. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] sponsor a seminar entitled "Modern Methods of Intelligence". The seminar would be scheduled for the [REDACTED]

Three representatives from the Directorate of Intelligence of the Agency would participate: representatives from the Operations Center (either the Chief or Deputy Chief), from the Office of Current Intelligence, and from either the Office of Political Research, the Office of Economic Research, or the Office of Strategic Research. A fourth panel member would be an individual from outside the Agency who has knowledge of the intelligence process, and is prepared to provide critical input for the seminar.

CONTENT

The focus of presentations by the Agency representatives would be an explanation of the importance of modern intelligence work to the formation of foreign policy. Stress would be laid on information collection, intelligence production, and intelligence dissemination. Each of these phases would be examined as closely as security requirements and time permit. To preclude security violations, all information could be drawn from the public record and/or unclassified Agency material.

Individual presentations:

- a) Operations Center: Overview of the intelligence process. Role of the Operations Center as an information management unit and its function as an alerting center. Role of similar community bodies in the intelligence process.
- b) Office of Current Intelligence: Overview of the methods of information collection currently in use, outline of the intelligence production process, and description of the nature and uses of various OCI publications.

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- c) OPR, OER, OSR: Discussion of the techniques of long-range analysis, the types of in-depth studies being conducted, and the contributions of these studies to the intelligence and foreign policy processes.

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